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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 004613

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE; NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN; USAID  
FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBC PHUM PREL PTER ASEC CASC GZ IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: GAZA BOY KILLED BY ROCKET THAT FELL  
SHORT; PA SAYS FAMILY MEMBER, NOT SETTLER, KILLED WEST BANK  
YOUTH TWO DAYS AGO. JULY 22, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: A homemade rocket launched at a Gaza settlement failed to hit its intended target on July 21, killing instead a Palestinian boy in Khan Yunis and wounding his brother. Only one other incident of rocket fire and only one incident of mortar fire were reported from Gaza. PA security forces and Palestinian gunmen exchanged gunfire in Gaza City starting at about 0100 on July 21. No injuries were reported. In the West Bank, PA security forces on July 21 announced that a family member -- not settlers, as earlier reported -- killed a Palestinian youth in Qaryut, near Nablus, on July 20. End summary.

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Gaza  
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[1](#)2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths/Rockets: A homemade rocket fired from Khan Yunis toward the Neve Dekalim settlement at 1445 on July 21 fell short and landed on the house of a Palestinian family, killing a Palestinian boy reported as either 12 or 13 years old by UNRWA and the Israeli media.

-- Injuries/Rockets: The younger brother of the Palestinian boy killed by a Palestinian rocket (see "Deaths/Rockets") was wounded in the same attack. UNRWA reported that the boy was ten years old and suffered moderate injuries. The Israeli media, citing PA sources, reported that the boy was seven years old and critically wounded.

-- Mortars: The IDF reported only one instance of either mortar or rocket fire during the 24 hours ending at 0600 on July 22, a mortar shell launched at 1435 on July 21 at IDF soldiers located about four kms south of Kissufim crossing. No injuries were reported.

-- Rockets: In addition to the rocket that killed a Palestinian boy and wounded his brother in Khan Yunis (see "Deaths/Rockets" and "Injuries/Rockets"), UNRWA reported one homemade rocket fired from Beit Lahia toward the northern Gaza settlements at 1045 on July 21. No injuries were reported from the incident.

-- Shootings: UNRWA reported that unknown men fired at a PA security service vehicle traveling in Gaza City at 0100 on July 21. Additional PA security vehicles arrived and pursued the attackers. Sporadic exchanges of gunfire were subsequently reported in several places in Gaza City. No injuries were reported.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported eight separate incidents of gunfire between 1300 on July 21 and 0340 on July 22. All were directed at IDF outposts around the Gaza Strip. Three of the incidents involved fire against IDF outposts near Khan Yunis; two others against IDF outposts near Neve Dekalim; and single incidents near Morag, Kissufim Crossing, and Rafiah Yam. No injuries were reported in any of the incidents.

-- Explosions: The IDF detonated an explosive device found approximately one kilometer south of an IDF outpost south of Rafah at 2345 on July 21.

[1](#)3. (SBU) ARRESTS: Nil.

[1](#)4. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

[1](#)5. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open.

-- Erez Crossing was closed to Palestinians except those holding Jerusalem IDs. It was open for international travelers.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers, but open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was partially open.

-- Rafah Terminal was open in both directions except for Palestinian males between the ages of 16 and 35, who are barred from traveling from Gaza to Egypt through the terminal.

-- Toufah checkpoint was open in both directions for all Palestinians except males aged 16 to 30 .

16. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: Israeli media reported that IDF sources estimate that about 600 disengagement opponents have in recent days sneaked into Gaza settlements despite the GOI closure of the settlements. (Estimates range from several dozen to 2,000.) The new arrivals reportedly plan to remain to fight against efforts to remove the settlers.

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West Bank  
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17. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: PA security forces on July 21 announced that a family member -- not settlers, as earlier reported -- killed a Palestinian youth in Qaryut, near Nablus, on July 20.

-- Injury: Nil.

-- Shooting: Palestinian gunmen on July 21 opened fire on IDF soldiers operating in Qabatiya village, south of Jenin. There were no reported injuries from this incident. (See &Arrests8).

18. (SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Arrests: IDF soldiers operating in Qabatiya village, south of Jenin, on July 21 arrested two Fatah activists.

-- Incursion/Arrest: The IDF the evening of July 21 entered Jenin refugee camp and arrested one Fatah activist.

-- Security: IDF sappers on July 21 defused a bomb in Tulkarm refugee camp. There were no reported injuries.

-- Security: The Palestinian Authority police on July 21 handed over to the Israeli DCO one IDF soldier and three Israeli women who had entered Bethlehem by mistake.

-- The IDF on July 21 set up an observation tower in the vicinity of Route 60 near al-Khadr village, west of Bethlehem.

19. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- According to Palestinian press reports from July 22, Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas stated that the clashes between Fatah/PA and Hamas had ended except for a few isolated incidents.

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